

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: COMMENTS ON DRAFT CONTINGUENCY STUDY: CHILE/PERU

1. I HAVE REVIEWED THE DRAFT CONTINGUENCY STUDY: CHILE/PERU WITH KEY MEMBERS OF MY STAFF. WE FOUND THE STUDY A USEFUL ONE.

2. THE IG/ARA MAY WISH TO EXPAND THE CONTINGUENCY SECTION TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT:

A) OTHER SOURCES OF ARMS BESIDES THE USSR AND CUBA. ALTHOUGH THE INTRODUCTION OF SOVIET ARMS HAS SPECIAL MENANCE INsofar AS US INTERESTS ARE CONCERNED, THE PURCHASE OF ARMS FROM OTHER SOURCES (WESTERN EUROPEAN FOR EXAMPLE) CAN HAVE SIGNIFICANT DESTABILIZING EFFECT ON REGIONAL SECURITY AS WELL.

B.) POSSIBLE SETS OF ALLIANCES BETWEEN CHILE OR PERU AND OTHER LATIN AMERICAN STATES WHICH COULD MAKE CONFLICT SETTLEMENT MORE DIFFICULT.

C) THE POSSIBILITY THAT IF EITHER SIDE RESORTED TO SUBVERSION OR UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, THE FIGHTING MIGHT DRAG ON SOME LENGTH OF TIME

AND POSSIBLY BE MORE DIFFICULT TO CONTROL.

3. KEY ISSUES. THE ARMS RACE ASPECTS OF THE ISSUE PROVIDES THE SOVIETS WITH A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE THEIR INFLUENCE AND INTRODUCE TENSIONS INTO THE AREA IF THEY WISH. IT FUELS THE

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TENSIONS IN THE REGION AND CAN HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE

ECONOMIES OF THE NATIONS INVOLVED. THE ARMS RACE ASPECT MAY BE WORTHY OF CLOSER STUDY. THE PERCEPTIONS OF THE NATIONS INVOLVED PLAY A PART IN THE DEFINITION OF WHETHER AN ARMS RACE HAS ALREADY BEGUN. THE EXISTING SITUATION IS EVIDENTLY SERIOUS ENOUGH TO HAVE PROMPTED HIGH LEVEL US ATTENTION, TO HAVE LED TO NOTICEABLE CONCERN ON THE PART OF THE CHILEANS, AND TO HAVE CAUSED VELASCO TO PROPOSE AN ARMS FREEZE. PERHAPS THE CONTINGENCY STUDY SHOULD CLARIFY AT WHAT POINT THE US WOULD FIND ITS INTEREST THREATENED BY NEW ARMS PURCHASES OR A DEEPENING MILITARY IMBALANCE. ALSO THE STUDY MENTIONS THAT PERU'S ARMS PURCHASE MAY BE INFLUENCED BY BRAZIL'S PERHAPS THIS SHOULD BE EXAMINED FURTHER SO THAT ANY PROPOSED SOLUTION WILL DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH ALL POSSIBLE ROOTS OF THE PROBLEM.

4. RECOMMEND COURSES OF ACTION-GIVEN THE PROBABLE RESISTANCE BY PERU TO EVEN WELL INTENTIONED US INITIATIVES NOTED IN THE STUDY, THIS EMBASSY WONDERS IF USG ENCOURAGEMENT OF REGIONAL ARMS LIMITATIONS INITIATIVES AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES TO DEFUSE CHILE-PERU TENSIONS SHOULD NOT RATE HIGHER PRIORITY IN THE RECOMMENDED COURSES OF ACTION.
STEDMAN

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